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decomposition the carbonaceous material in the associated rocks. The heat derived from the slowly cooling injected rocks may have played an important part in this process.

The mineral whose geological occurrence we have thus described, gives, when subjected to chemical tests, almost precisely the same reactions as albertite. It is insoluble in heated acids and alkalies, and is but sparingly if at all soluble in alcohol, ether or oil of turpentine. Like albertite, also, it is infusible, but softens by heat and burns with a yellow flame, emitting an agreeable odor. It gives when incinerated a little less than 0.10 per cent. of ash.—*Amer. Jour. Sci. and Arts, August.*

THE HUDSON RIVER GROUP AT POUGHKEEPSIE.—As the result of the examination of the Hudson River region by Profs. Logan and Hall, these gentlemen traced the " Hudson River Group" as far as Rhineback, and gave that as its eastern boundary. At a June meeting of the Poughkeepsie Society of Natural Science, Prof. T. Nelson Dale (who has temporarily occupied the chair of geology at Vassar College) reported the occurrence of fossils *in situ* in the college grounds. The specimens shown and presented by him to the society were *Leptœna sericea*, an *Orthis* (undetermined) and some fragments of Encrinites. A few days ago Prof. Dale and the secretary of the Poughkeepsie Society of Natural Science, Dr. E. H. Parker, made a careful examination of the rocks on the west side of the river, opposite Poughkeepsie, and about a mile back, and were fortunate enough to discover large quantities of the same species of Brachiopods as those mentioned above, as well as some excellent specimens of what appear to be Fucoids, and similar to what Dana figures as *Buthotrephis*. This discovery would seem to show that the " Hudson River Group " extends perhaps as far as the Highlands.—*W. R. Gerard.*

GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVELS.[1]

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY. PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.—At the meeting of this Society held in New York, February 11, 1879, the President, Chief Justice Daly, delivered his annual address in which, instead of giving the usual summary of the progress of geographical exploration and research during the past year, he chose as his subject, " The History of Cartography, or the Progress of the Art of Map-making from the Earliest Times to those of Mercator." Cartographic Art, he stated, is probably as old or older than the invention of the alphabet, and has been found in use among races who had had no previous contact with civilized man nor any written language. The Esquimaux understood the charts of Parry and Ross and even extended lines of coast unknown to the explorers. The North American Indians have always had maps which were serviceable to them.

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[1] Edited by ELLIS H. YARNALL, Philadelphia.

The earliest thing known in the nature of a map is the ground plan of a town identified as that of Susa, the Shushan of the Bible, a city of remote antiquity. The plan is supposed to be as old as the seventh century before Christ and represents with minute accuracy the details of the town. The Egyptians doubtless had maps and some general idea of the form of the earth. It is from the Greeks that we get our earliest knowledge of maps. Strabo says that Anaximander (B. C. 612) was the first who represented the world on a map. Parmenides, a contemporary of Herodotus, is said by Diogenes Laertes to have been the first person who asserted that the earth was of a spherical form and the same idea was entertained by Socrates. Strabo credits Parmenides also with having been the first to divide the globe into five zones, or, as they were then called, climates. Aristotle, half a century afterward, was convinced that the earth was a globe, drawing that conclusion from the shadow which it casts on the sun in eclipses. Crates (B. C. 325) constructed a globe of the inhabited part of the earth—from the arctic to the tropic in the form of a half circle. Dicearchus (B. C. 296) constructed a map of the world in oval form. With Eratosthenes (220 B. C.) the science of geography may be said to have begun. He devised what has ever since been employed as the most accurate means of determining the circumference of the earth, the measurement of an arc of the meridian. Hipparchus, a century later, first divided the globe by lines of longitude and latitude into degrees. Ptolemy of Alexandria (A. D. 250) is one of the best known of ancient geographers. His geography is based on the work of his immediate predecessor, Marinus of Tyre. The works of Eratosthenes, Hipparchus and Marinus have perished, and the geographies of Strabo, Pomponius Mela and Ptolemy are the only important works of the ancients that have come down to us. A period of 1200 years elapses from the time of Ptolemy to the inauguration by Prince Henry of Portugal of the spirit of maritime enterprise which led to the circumnavigation of Africa and the discovery of the continent of America. This includes the period of the Dark Ages. The Arabs from the ninth to the thirteenth centuries. however, assiduously cultivated geography. To them we owe the preservation of the works of Ptolemy. They determined the obliquity of the ecliptic and measured two arcs of the meridian. Through their intercourse with China the western world probably learned of the mariner's compass. The Chinese also had maps from a very remote period.

After the journeys of Marco Polo and Cademostra in the fifteenth century, many curious and remarkable maps were executed. On that of Benewitz (1524-48) the name "America" first appears. The last and greatest map is that of Gerard Krehmer, better known to the world by the Latinizing of his name as Mercator (1569). His projection not only gave the world in one view, but showed the most effectual way for a vessel to sail in a straight line over a curved surface and thereby solved what was before one of the most difficult problems of navigation.

OBITUARY.—Dr. J. G. Kohl died at Bremen, his native city, October 28, 1878. He was born April 28, 1808. He was very widely known as the author of a very large number of geographical works and books of travel. These include accounts of travels in Russia, Poland, Austria, Hungary, Great Britain and Ireland, Denmark, Styria, the Alps, Netherlands, Dalmatia and Montenegro, etc. He came to America in 1854, and spent four years in travel, of which he told in books on Canada and the north-western States and Territories. He also wrote several works and papers on the early history, folklore and maps of America. One of his latest productions, remarkable for its learning and research, was a history of the discovery and voyages made to Magellan Straits.[1] He made many friends when in this country, and was a member of several of our historical and scientific societies.

Nicholas de Kanikoff, a Russian Orientalist, died near Paris on November 15, 1878. Born October 24, 1819, he at the age of twenty accompanied Gen. Perovski's unfortunate expedition to Khiva, and afterwards traveled much in Asia, especially in Bokhara, Persia (where he was Russian Consul General) and Afghanistan. He published (1845) Bokhara, its Amir and its People, and (1861) a Memoir on the Southern Part of Central Asia, for which the French Geographical Society gave him its gold medal. These and several other works are the source of much of our information concerning Central Asia.

MICROSCOPY.[2]

NEW MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETIES.—The Microscopical Society of Camden, N. J., was organized November 7, 1878, with eighteen members. Meetings are held on the first Thursday evening of every month, at the residences of members. The following are the officers for 1870: President, Albert P. Brown, Ph. G.; secretary and treasurer, Joseph L. De La Cour; managers, Harry S. Fortiner, C. Henry Kain, Samuel S. Cochran; curator, Alfred W. Test.

A Microscopical section of the Cincinnati Natural History Society has been recently formed, with fifteen or twenty members. Meetings are held on the first Friday evening of each month, at the rooms of the Society, with good attendance and the promise of interesting and valuable work.

The Rochester Microscopical Society was organized January 27, 1879, with a membership of nearly forty persons. From

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[1] Geschichte der Entdeckungsreisen und Schifffahrten zur Magellan's-strasse und zu den ihr benachbarten Landern und Meeren. Von J. G. Kohl. Zeitschrift der Gesellschaft für Erdkunde zu Berlin, 1876. XI band, pp. 315 and 405.

[2] This department is edited by Dr. R. H. Ward, Troy, N. Y.